

Application No.: 10/764,847
Amendment dated: December 28, 2005
Reply to Office action of 09/30/2005

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1-4 (Canceled).

5 (previously presented). A press felt for papermaking comprising a base body and a fibrous assembly, and having a wet paper web contacting surface and a machine contacting surface, and a three-dimensional knitted fabric comprising two overlying layers of fabric connected to each other by connecting fibers, said three-dimensional knitted fabric being incorporated within said press felt at a distance from both the wet paper web contacting surface and the machine contacting surface, wherein said three-dimensional knitted fabric is provided on the machine contacting surface side relative to said base body.

6 (previously presented). A press felt for papermaking as claimed in claim 5, wherein said connecting fibers are monofilament fibers.

7-8 (Canceled).

9 (previously presented). A press felt for papermaking as claimed in claim 5, wherein said fibrous

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assembly is provided between said three-dimensional knitted fabric and said base body.

10-15 (Cancelled).

16 (previously presented). A press felt for papermaking as claimed in claim 6, wherein said fibrous assembly is provided between said three-dimensional knitted fabric and said base body.

17 (cancelled)

18 (previously presented). A press felt for papermaking comprising a base body and a fibrous assembly, and having a wet paper web contacting surface and a machine contacting surface, and at least two three-dimensional knitted fabrics, each three-dimensional knitted fabric comprising two overlying knitted layers connected to each other by connecting fibers, said three-dimensional knitted fabrics being incorporated within said press felt at a distance from both the wet paper web contacting surface and the machine contacting surface, and said base body being provided between two of said three-dimensional knitted fabrics.

19-23 (cancelled)

24 (currently amended). A press felt for papermaking as claimed in claim 18, wherein each at least one of said three-dimensional knitted fabrics, located between which the base

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body is provided and the wet paper web contacting surface, has openings surrounded by fibers, the opening ratio of the surface of each of said at least one of said three-dimensional knitted fabrics is 50% or less, and the size of the openings surrounded by fibers is 0.03 cm² or less.

25(new). A press felt according to claim 9, wherein said three-dimensional knitted fabric and said fibrous assembly are integrated by needle punching, the density of said three-dimensional knitted fabric being in the range from 0.1 g/cm³ to 0.4 g/cm³, with the fibers of said fibrous assembly having entered said three dimensional knitted fabric as a result of needle punching.

26(new). A press felt according to claim 16, wherein said three-dimensional knitted fabric and said fibrous assembly are integrated by needle punching, the density of said three-dimensional knitted fabric being in the range from 0.1 g/cm³ to 0.4 g/cm³, with the fibers of said fibrous assembly having entered said three dimensional knitted fabric as a result of needle punching.